



26 March 2026

Ministerial Services  
Partnerships and Commissions – Te Aukaha  
PO Box 805, Wellington 6140  
Email: [OIA@dia.govt.nz](mailto:OIA@dia.govt.nz)  
Website: [www.dia.govt.nz](http://www.dia.govt.nz)

G Mitchells  
[fyi-request-33863-  
41994664@requests.fyi.org.nz](mailto:fyi-request-33863-41994664@requests.fyi.org.nz)

Kia ora G Mitchells,

**Request for information (OIA 2526-0927)**

Thank you for your request for information made under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act) to the Department of Internal Affairs (the Department) received on 26 February 2026. You requested the following information:

*I am writing to request information under the Official Information Act 1982.*

*I request the following information relating to travel undertaken by Hon David Seymour in his ministerial capacity from 1 June 2025 to the date of this request:*

*For all international and domestic travel during this period, please provide:*

- 1. The dates of travel;*
- 2. The destination(s);*
- 3. The purpose of the travel;*
- 4. The number of staff who travelled with the Minister;*
- 5. The total cost of each trip, itemised where possible (including but not limited to flights, accommodation, ground transport, and any other associated costs);*
- 6. The class of airfare booked for the Minister and accompanying staff (e.g., economy, premium economy, business);*
- 7. The total cumulative cost of all travel during this period.*

**Background Information**

The Department's Ministerial Services business group is responsible for processing and administering the payment of expenses related to ministerial travel. There may be occasions where members of the wider travelling party are paid for separately, such as by other Government departments which the Department does not hold records for.

## Response to your request

I have numbered the response to your request for ease and have separated this into international and domestic sections.

### International travel

Since 1 June 2025, Hon David Seymour has undertaken one international trip as detailed below;

1. This trip was from 27 - 31 August 2025.
2. The destination was Australia<sup>1</sup>.
3. I am advised that the purpose of this trip was to give a speech at the National Regulators Community of Practice Conference (NRCoP). Please note the Department does not always hold information about the purpose of a trip.
4. One staff member travelled to Australia in support of the event.
5. The total cost of this trip to the Department was \$1,793 as at 28 February 2026. It is important to note that depending on the payment method, the supplier and details of an expense may not always be easily identifiable hence the Department is unable to provide an itemised breakdown.
6. The Department does not centrally record the class of travel taken. However, Ministers are expected to travel no higher than business class on international flights, premium economy or economy class should be considered for shorter flights. Staff travelling follow the Department of Internal Affairs guidelines for class of travel when booking airfares. These guidelines state that an economy class fare should be booked for flights of nine hours continuous flying time or less. International airfares for Ministerial Office employees travelling with a Minister will be booked in accordance with the budget approved by the Prime Minister or Cabinet.
7. The Department is required under legislation to release aggregated expenses on Ministerial travel and accommodation on a quarterly basis on its website<sup>2</sup>. As such, this part of your request is refused under section 18(d) of the Act, as the information is publicly available.

More information on international Ministerial travel guidance is available in the Cabinet Manual<sup>3</sup> and CabGuide<sup>4</sup>.

### Domestic travel

In relation to domestic travel, Ministerial Services does not record information in the format requested. Ministers are able to undertake domestic travel at their discretion to carry out official duties, with access to services on a 24/7 basis.

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<sup>1</sup> Travel to Australia does not require Cabinet approval (for travel to Australia the Prime Minister's approval is sufficient).

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.dia.govt.nz/Ministers-expense-releases>

<sup>3</sup> <https://www.dpmc.govt.nz/our-business-units/cabinet-office/supporting-work-cabinet/cabinet-manual/2-ministers-crown-12>

<sup>4</sup> <https://www.dpmc.govt.nz/publications/ministers-overseas-travel-process-and-cabinet-travel-papers>

To answer parts one through six of your request for domestic travel, a line-by-line review of each invoice would need to be conducted. This process would require a substantial amount of time and resource that would cause a significant and unreasonable impact on other operations. Therefore, I am refusing these parts of your request under section 18(f) of the Act.

As is required under section 18A of the Act, I have considered whether charging or extending the timeframe for responding to your request would help. However, this would not remove the impact that a line-by-line review of invoices from 1 June 2025 until the date of your request would cause to operations.

As per Cabinet Minute (CAB-18-MIN-0587)<sup>5</sup> Ministerial diaries are expected to be proactively released by each Ministerial office on the Beehive website<sup>6</sup> within 15 business days of the end of each calendar month (except for December when the diaries should be published by the 31<sup>st</sup> of the following January). This may provide some of the information sought, such as dates of travel, destinations and purposes.

Part 7 of your request is refused under section 18(d) of the Act, as mentioned above because the information is publicly available.

We may publish this OIA response on [www.dia.govt.nz](http://www.dia.govt.nz) (with your personal details having been removed). Publishing responses to OIA requests increases the availability of information to the public and is consistent with the purpose of the Act to enable effective participation in the making and administration of laws and policies, and to promote the accountability of Ministers and officials.

If you have any concerns with the information in this response, you have a right to request an investigation and review by the Ombudsman under section 28(3) of the Act. Information on how to do this is available at [www.ombudsman.parliament.nz](http://www.ombudsman.parliament.nz) or freephone 0800 802 602.

Yours sincerely,



**Briget Ridden**

General Manager – Ministerial Services  
Partnerships and Commissions - Te Aukaha  
Department of Internal Affairs - Te Tari Taiwhenua

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<sup>5</sup> [https://www.dia.govt.nz/vwluResources/CAB-18-MIN-0587-Minute/\\$file/CAB-18-MIN-0587-Minute.pdf](https://www.dia.govt.nz/vwluResources/CAB-18-MIN-0587-Minute/$file/CAB-18-MIN-0587-Minute.pdf)

<sup>6</sup> [https://www.beehive.govt.nz/advanced\\_search](https://www.beehive.govt.nz/advanced_search)